

9 March 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: AD/OSA

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SUBJECT : [] Proposal dated 12 December 1963

1. As you know, we have been up and down the covert satellite hill several times now without spectacular success. I do feel that if we are to explore possibilities of doing the indications intelligence job with a satellite, we should have all of the contracts ready to go to bid at the same time. The attached staff work addresses itself to only one aspect of the problem, namely, the [] guidance proposal. I would much rather have a series of interlocking work statements which are co-ordinated with themselves by our own people before letting any of them out to contract.

2. At the same time I am concerned that we are still not clear on the requirements for this job. In fact, we have no clear idea of the role photography can, or might, play in the indications intelligence business. Neither do we know what the required resolution is to make it an effective player in that game, nor what the acceptable time delays are. This problem I do not lay at OSA's feet as it represents a general inability on the part of the intelligence community to articulate its needs. However, since it is the first step, I think we must insist on clarifying it further before we proceed to spending

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3. In the meantime I have directed our people to spend no further money on this program than to begin the preparation of three work statements in the five or six areas which we have discussed previously, the details of which might be sent out when we are able to get the requirements straight.

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[]
ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director
(Science and Technology)

Attachment:

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NRO review(s) completed.